

To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee
Justin Poirier, Chair

Fr: Kate Dufour, Director, Advocacy & Communications

Re: Weekly LD List Preview, Poll Results & Another Survey/Zoom Meeting

Date: February 14, 2025

Aww, how tremendously sweet...it's the St. Valentine's Day edition of the advocacy team's Friday missive. And just like a heart shaped box of chocolates, there is a little treat to satisfy everyone's palate.

LD List Preview. First, this [link](#) will lead you to descriptions of the several bills printed over the last few days, which you will have the opportunity to discuss, along with several others, on Thursday, February 27. To that end, please keep your eyes peeled for the LPC meeting packet, which will be emailed next week.

Survey Says. Second, on the off chance you are curious about the positions established via last week's LPC position poll, look no further than this [link](#). Spoiler alert...LPC members participating in the survey took a "neither for nor against" position on LD 326, which increases the property exemption for blind homeowners, and to support LD 353, proposing to study deed fraud.

Another Survey/Impromptu Zoom Meeting. Due to legislative recess, the week of February 17 is likely to be relatively quiet on the legislative front. However, the week after, not so much. As a result, we need your feedback on 12 bills that will receive public hearings before the policy committee convenes.

This week LPC members can elect to simply respond to this email and let us know how you feel about the following bills **by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.** Or, better yet, you can join the advocacy team at **noon on Wednesday, February 19**, for the ever-popular impromptu Zoom meeting. To join us via Zoom, please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81424398211?pwd=ulD5I6ofa2Ueybragm0Pnb1z2n7XhA.1>

2/14/2025 LPC Position Poll

LD 288 *An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) Of municipal interest, the bill proposes technical changes to property tax related laws, including: (1) requiring fulltime property assessors to be certified by Maine Revenue Services as having "the basic knowledge required to perform the assessing function" rather than certified as "professionally trained assessors;" (2) repealing the requirement that Maine Revenue Services provide municipalities with printed homestead exemption applications; (3) correcting a conflict in the payment due date in the state's homestead property tax deferral program; and (4) making changes to conform with current drafting standards.

On LD 288, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 358 *An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill increases the fees paid to a county register of deeds by: (1) implementing a flat fee of \$45 for receiving, recording and indexing instruments that do not already have a specific fee; (2) increasing to \$45 the fee for recording, indexing and preserving plans; (3) adjusting from \$5 to \$10 per page the rate for paper copies of plans; and (3) repealing the \$13 fee for requests for more than one previously recorded instrument. The bill reduces from 500 to 100 the number of images or electronic abstracts per calendar year a user can receive at no cost. The bill also makes subject to a committee request, rather than an annual requirement, the submission of a report from the register of deeds in each county to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters regarding the amount surcharge funds raised and expended and the use of those funds.

On LD 358, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 401 *An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) The bill amends the laws governing pollution control in the following ways: (1) requires the seller of residential real property to disclose the use of an overboard discharge system and provide a summary of the transfer requirements for such a system; (2) changes the cost of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program for which the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may pay up to 90% of the expense from \$100,000 to 250% of the median household income in the state; (3) changes the income limits for individual pollution abatement projects serving single-family dwellings, seasonal dwellings or commercial establishments for which the commissioner may pay a percentage of the cost; (4)

On LD 401, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 418 *An Act to Remand Individuals with Pending State Probation Violations to the Department of Corrections Following Initial Proceedings* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell) This bill provides when a violation of probation occurs, and the individual cannot make bail or if bail has not been set, the person must be remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections until the court proceeding or final disposition.

On LD 418, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 422 *An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality* (Sponsored by Rep. Swallow of Houlton) This bill prohibits the state from placing a noncitizen, defined as a person who is not a U.S. citizen, in a municipality without receiving prior authorization from the municipality and further authorizes municipalities to limit the number of noncitizens placed in the community.

On LD 422, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 440 *Resolve, to Study the Economic Effects of Instituting a Seasonal Sales Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) This resolve directs Maine Revenue Services (MRS) to conduct a study on the effects of a seasonal sales tax, including an: (1) estimate of the revenue that would be collected and share of the revenue collected from year-round residents; (2) analysis of the effects on the economy, consumer spending, businesses and tourism; and (3) investigation of the impacts in other states that have adopted seasonal sales tax schemes. No later than December 3, 2025, MRS is also directed to submit a report to the legislature.

On LD 440, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 465 *An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) Of municipal interest, this bill amends the state’s waste discharge license fees by adding a license for general permit coverage for municipal separate storm sewer system and establishing an annual fee of \$1,306.

On LD 465, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 478 *An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford) Except when conditions or other regulations require a lower speed, this bill sets the maximum rates of speed for a public way where at least one residence is located within 15 feet, as: (1) 25 miles per hour for a snowplow and equipment used by the Department of Transportation exclusively for the removal of snow on the public way; (2) 25 miles per hour for a vehicle with at least five axles; and (3) 35 miles per hour for all other vehicles.

On LD 478, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 490 *An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo) This bill amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to provide that any agency rule that is finally adopted or amended after January 1, 2026, is automatically repealed five years from the date of final adoption. An agency that has adopted or has jurisdiction over a rule subject to automatic repeal may submit to the legislature a request for renewal, which protects the rule from repeal for an additional five year period. Eighteen months before the automatic repeal of a rule, the bill also directs the Secretary of State to inform the state agency with oversight responsibility notice that the rule will be repealed.

On LD 490, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 494 *An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) Part D of this state agency bill repeals the laws governing liquor signs, with the exception for wholesalers, by limiting signage to no more than five located on the outside of a licensed premises, building, or grounds under that person's control and contiguous or adjacent to the licensed premises that advertises: (1) a liquor is on sale; (2) the price of the liquor, or (3) any other advertising that includes more than the name and logo of the premises or an image appearing on a patio umbrella in an outside seating area.

On LD 494, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 502 *An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers* (Rep. Ardell of Monticello) This bill amends the laws regulating outdoor wood boilers, including pellet boilers by: (1) allowing an outdoor wood boiler meeting a particulate matter emission limit of 0.32 pounds per million British Thermal Units heat output to be exempt from property setback requirements as long as it meets applicable stack height requirements under Department of Environmental Protection rules; and (2) prohibiting the adoption of department rules that ban the emission of a smoke plume from an outdoor wood boiler, regardless of whether emissions remain on the property of the owner of the outdoor wood boiler or crosses onto any adjacent land or buildings not owned by the owner.

On LD 502, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 549 *An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Update Certain Requirements Regarding Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett Oxford Cty.) This emergency bill: (1) directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system; (2) requires law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits to complete an inventory of all kits in its possession and report its findings to DPS; (3) allows a victim who has not reported an alleged offense to a law enforcement agency to request that a completed kit be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory to be processed by signing a consent form, and the results of the analysis must be kept anonymous; and (4) requires that, beginning January 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, all completed kits that identify an alleged victim and are being stored by a law enforcement agency be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and processed on a rolling basis, beginning with kits most recently stored.

On LD 549, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Be downgraded to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

Enjoy the long weekend.